SOUTH VIET NAM In struggle

6th Year — June 26, 1972

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

the vietnamese people will win!

THE Nixon administration has been trumpeting the success of "Vietnamization" and its current intensification of the war. It tries hard to make the public in the USA and the world believe that "Vietnamization" remains the only way to disengage the US from Viet Nam's affairs while getting it out from the conflict honorably and bringing about peace in the Indochina peninsula. Realities have made short work of these bombastic assertions.

20 years of US aggression

For 20 years now, the US has been pursuing a systematic policy of aggression to partition Viet Nam and make its southern part an American neo-colony and military base. From the Kennedy, Johnson to the Nixon administrations, the said aggression has been an escalation of hostilities through more and more ferocious and machiavellian means, playing increased havoc on our people and sustaining ever heavier setbacks.

The 200 personnel of the US military mission MAAG on the signing of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam was multiplied by 15 times in 1961 when the Pentagon conducted its "special war" against us. That "special war" running bankrupt, half a million troops were dispatched to South Viet Nam in a "localized war," while the US Air Force and Navy were detailed for an attack on the North.

The big gains won in all fields by our 1968 offensives and uprisings together with the splendid successes of our northern brothers in a 4-year war of destruction against the DRVN, compelled Johnson to cease unconditionally all bombardments over North Viet Nam and sit at the Paris quadripartite Conference for a peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam problem. The failure of that senseless war escalation led Nixon's predecessor right to his political doom.

Tricky Dick in the saddle

Nixon then entered the White House on the pledge to "end the war in 6 months." His office is coming to term yet the war keeps raging with unheard-of fierceness. He is striving to prolong the conflict, increase and extend it to the whole of Indochina. In the face of the fiasco of "Vietnamization" and the "Nixon doctrine," the Pentagon runs headlong onto a furious escalation. Warships, aircraft-carriers, B.52 strategic bombers have been deployed in a record figure of mass-killing operations in Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos alike. The mining of the DRVN ports and rivers was ordered by Nixon, while US aircraft keep firing missiles and dropping blast, steel-pellet and chemical bombs without let-up over populated areas, Haiphong and Hanoi included. Everything has become a target: factories, bridges, roads, dikes, churches, pagodas, temples, hospitals, schools, kindergartens, breeding farms, co-operatives' paddy-drying yards. But what has Nixon brought in? More planes grounded, more pilots killed or captured, the GIs and Saigon mercenaries swept away from Quang Tri, beaten hollow in An Loc, Hue, Kontum, driven into dire straits in the Trung Bo plain, the Mekong Delta and south of Saigon. The Nouvel Observateur in its June 5, 1972 issue noted that the US Defence budget was encumbered with one billion dollars by US naval and air activities in May 1972. Melvin Laird admitted on June 5, 1972 that the PLAF offensives will cost the USA three billion in September 1972 and five billion dollars if they were to continue till the end of this year.

Nixon has even gone to the far end of infamy by ballyhooing the US "goodwill for peace", "equal sovereign rights for all nations," etc., thus trying to fool public opinion and estrange the fight of the Vietnamese. No stones have been left unturned: slanders, distortion of facts followed by cunning offers, and even prayers to God, only to no avail: he has reaped nothing but shameful repulses. He refuses to get the US out of the costly Viet Nam war. "Vietnamization" is simply a novel version of US aggression. In his peace messenger's cloak, he is meeting with a general outcry, trembling with bomb explosions in Iran, being brought to trial in the USA and promised to the electric chair by the American masses. The "grape of wrath" was the fruit of his perfidious and obstinate aggression.

Nixon's flunkey, Thieu the arch-traitor

Nixon's war escalation and diplomatic moves are tied to his sinister political aim, that is the maintenance of the Saigon hireling regime. The US president staged "free elections" there allegedly to "enact South Viet Nam's right to self-determination." The Nguyen Van Thieu one-man race was an odious and impudent political trickery of the White House, while the undaunted drive of the townsfolk in South Viet Nam to overthrow Thieu has produced testimony to Nixon's political reverse. But the existence of that die-hard traitor has been wanted by Washington as an excuse to keep the war going and bring US neo-colonialism to fruition. The fact that Nixon preserves Thieu and the latter's machine intact, making him a trump-card for political bargaining, shows that the US president has never been heeding a negotiated settlement of the Viet Nam issue, nor terminating and, with greater reason, bringing all American POWs home.

Though having climbed the highest rung of military and political escalation and gone to the far end of diplomatic moves, Nixon shows himself unable to get out of his passive and losing posture. The US magazine New Republic *of May 20, 1972 had this to say: This time, the escalation is not serving the presidential objectives more efficiently than the previous escalations. Moreover it is incurring risks never seen before...*

Can Nixon set forth other trump-cards in this hopeless gamble? The Nouvel Observateur *of June 5, 1972 answered the question: "From now to August, Nixon is going to intensify his bombings... There remains no spare solution! Bombing, mining ports and bombing again, all this shows that he is in inextricable difficulties and running round and round..."*

He is fully aware of what had happened to Johnson after a 4-year bombardment of North Viet Nam. Some 6 million tons of bombs had been dropped by Johnson, without the North giving up its role as the great rear toward the great front line. The South keeps growing in strength, dealing deadly blows at Nixon's "Vietnamized" war. The fact is glaring: "the more the Yankee crimes, the harder the punishment blows, and the heavier the Yankee defeat."

(Continued on page 6)

Nothing can check the impetuous offensives of the South Viet Nam Liberation fighters

LEVELLING THE JUNGLE

DESPITE the lavish application of great wealth and superior technology, the US has made surprisingly little headway over the years against the National Liberation Front. With the growing realisation that the forest functions as a key ally of guerilla fighters by providing cover and sanctuary, more and more effort has been directed toward its obliteration. For a number of years reliance was placed primarily on chemical destruction. This approach reached its peak in 1967, but largely because of pressure exerted by the scientific community, it now not only has been reduced to a low level (see *Environment*, July/August 1970, p.16) but also has been entirely "Vietnamized." The herbicidal assault has left South Viet Nam with a legacy of many millions of dead, now rotting trees, and with locally debilitated ecosystems. A second approach that has been employed through the years to make the forest less hospitable to the other side is a bombing and shelling program of incredible magnitude. The 23 billion pounds of total munitions expended in Indochina between 1965 and 1970 alone are more than double those used by us throughout World War II in all theaters.

In recent years, however, a new technique has emerged. Born about 1965, developing into major proportions in 1968, and growing ever since, a vast program of systematic forest bulldozing now exists. The US Engineer Command in Viet Nam is daily putting Hercules and his twelve labors to shame. This report outlines the methods, scope, and magnitude of this "jungle eating" program and speculates on its economic and ecological impacts.

The basic tool of the landclearing in Viet Nam is the 20-ton D-7E Caterpillar tractor fitted with a massive 11-foot wide, 2,5-ton "Rome plow" blade equipped with a special 3-foot splitting lance or "stinger" and with 14 tons of added armor. A very limited number of the even more immense D-9 tractors are also in use. More than twice the size and weight of the D-7, each of these machines is said to be the operational equal of several. The tractors are presently organized into five companies of three platoons each, each company operating 30 or more tractors. Unofficially, the companies go under such names as Rome Runners, Land Barons, and Jungle Eaters. These outfits bulldoze continuously from dawn to dusk, seven days a week under what can only be described as spine-twisting and gut-wrenching (to say nothing of dangerous) conditions. No tree appears to be too large and no jungle too dense to escape these powerful machines in what must certainly be the most intense land-clearing program known to history.

The bulldozing began on a very small scale in 1965 and was devoted primarily to the clearing of roadsides and other lines of communication in order to discourage enemy ambushes. It was not until mid-1967 that the tractors were organized into small units. By the beginning of 1968, most of the major road systems in the central half of South Viet Nam (Military Regions II and III) had already been cleared. Although this mission still continues, virtually all major roads in the country have now been cleared for 300 to 600 feet or more on each side. These swaths throughout forest and plantation are now a conspicuous feature of the Vietnamese landscape. In some instances chemical herbicide treatment has helped to maintain these trips in a treeless condition.

The employment of massed tractors organized into companies for extensive forest clearing began in 1968, and the program has expanded ever since. In its primary mission of denying forest cover and sanctuary, the "Rome plow" appears to be without equal. Effectiveness of the tractors is clearly superior to that of aerial application of chemical antiplants. The devices are considered, for example, to be playing an instrumental role in the attempt to "secure" the region centered around Saigon (Military Region III). They are also of considerable importance in the northern half of the country (Military Regions I and II). The US has outfitted and is training two Vietnamese landclearing companies as one of the facets of "Vietnamization."

We were able to spend one day in action with the 94th Landclearing Company, which at the time was operating in the southeastern corner of Tay Ninh province. During our stay, the company was in the final stages of obliterating the Boi Loi woods. More accurately, it was supplying the *coup de grace* to this longtime enemy stronghold that previously had been treated at least once with herbicides, had been subjected to saturation bombing from B-52 stratofortresses, and had also been shelled by artillery.

We joined the outfit on its twenty-seventh day in the Boi Loi woods. During the past 26 days it had already scraped clean 6,037 acres. Several days more and this job would be finished, permitting the 984th to move on to greener pastures. Before this job, the men had eliminated the 9,000-acre Ho Bo woods in nearby west-central Binh Duong province.

The Boi Loi woods was enemy territory and we were dropped in by helicopter. We accompanied one of the platoon commanders in his armored personnel carrier and were flanked by several Sheridan tanks of the Eleventh Armored Cavalry. Although we had no contact with the enemy that day and hit no landmines, we were informed that both were regular occurrences. In the past 26 days, for example, several enemy attacks had been repulsed and the tractors had set off no less than 37 mines in the course of their work. (Seven casualties from landmines had been sustained this period.)

In operation, the tractors were strung out in a long staggered formation, the lead tractor being directed for much of the time by the company commander circling overhead in a small helicopter. The large number of bomb craters made the job of maneuvering the large tracked vehicles most difficult. The heat was oppressive (hovering around 130 degrees F. in the tractor cabs) and the work was truly arduous. But the morale of the men seemed very high, despite their fifteen-hour work days, seven days a wet season and dry. The company was proud of its abilities and accomplishments and, we are told, was among the rare units in Viet Nam without a drug problem.

(To be continued)

ARTHUR WESTING

In 26 days, the forest cleaning Company 984 scraped clean 6,037 acres of the Boi Loi woods

in the Cities

o The Thieu clique has ordered schools in South Viet Nam cities closed and farcical examinations held in a bid to induct students and pupils, especially those in the 17-age group, into their army. In Gia Dinh and Long Xuyen city, the local youth and pupils have joined other people in resisting the fascist military draft order, armed themselves for self-defence and resolutely fought back the police called in to crack down on them.

o On May 24, the collective of student representatives from the Faculties of Letters, Pedagogy, Commerce, Banking and International Relations of the Hoa Hao Institute held a teach-in and unanimously approved a statement which emphasized that the troop impress and troop upgrading ordered by the Thieu clique would "cripple cultural and educational establishments, kill the future of the youth, and raise gloomy prospects for the country."

o The student-pupil community in An Giang has called on parents, teachers, families with members serving in the Saigon army, churchmen, political organizations and Saigon MPs to join in the student drive for vital interests and the future of the nation.

o Recently the Saigon Shipping Union sent a protest to the Thieu regime, against the conscription of seamen. "If seamen were drafted into the army, the maritime service would be paralyzed," they warned.

o The Thieu clique are intensifying terror against people in Saigon. They have arbitrarily arrested student Trinh Dinh Ban, President of the Committee of Action for University Autonomy, and many executive members of the Saigon General Union of Students.

They have deported to Poulo Condor (Con Son) Island many students in the Executive of the Hue General Union of Students unwarrantedly arrested by them. Many Buddhist priests in Hue, Nha Trang and the West coast provinces have also been taken into custody. Since March 30, the number of arrested has risen from 25,000 to 55,000. Mass arrests have also been carried out, most of them secretly.

o On June 14, the An Quang Pagoda Council met in Saigon to condemn the arbitrary arrests of many Buddhists in Hue by the Thieu clique. So far 1,318 people have been detained, including 2 superior bonzes in charge of major pagodas in Hue. 862 of the victims have been transferred to Poulo Condor Island. Along with this terror campaign, the Thieu clique have put to Caodaist dignitaries of Long An province in jail.

o Mrs Ngo Ba Thanh, President of the Women's Movement for the Right to Live still under detention, has sent a letter to a Saigon MP in which she strongly denounced the terror tactics carried out by the Thieu clique and urged congressional intervention for an immediate end to arrest and detention of patriots.

o In the first 10 days of June, the Thieu clique seized 51 newspaper issues and fined 10 journalists and 9 publishers more than 3 4 million piastres (Saigon currency).

The Saigon regime turns fascistic

GIVE a dog an ill name and hang him. In the case of Ngo Dinh Diem in 1963, such a course of action was superfluous. The CIA-masterminded "Revolutionary Military Council" needed only to depose the dictator and suspend provisionally the constitution he had promulgated on October 26, 1956, by the grace of God and the US Dollar.

But if the abolition on the paper of Diem's presidential rule was just child's play, replacing it to the best advantage of the supreme interests of the American nation is another pair of shoes. For two years, a series of coups d'état and military putsches involving various gangs of henchmen was staged fruitlessly.

A so-called democratic constitution

Only in 1966, the second year of the limited war, when Johnson deemed it necessary to complete the first dry season counter-offensive with a political counter-offensive, was the objective attained. US confederates Thieu and Ky were summoned early that year to Honolulu to receive the master's accolade and assignment to lay quisling democratic foundations. Back in Saigon, they set to organize rigged elections which spawned a Constituent Assembly entrusted with the drafting of a democratic constitution within six months prepared beforehand by CIA jurists.

Anti US-Thieu demonstration by the population in Binh Dinh province

Lyndon B. Johnson who hated the law's delays did not wait until the end of the half year deadline and called the Thieu-Ky pair to Guam for March 21, 1967. The Constituent Assembly had to pass the draft constitution 11 days ahead of the time-limit and the two generals had to fly to the meeting to receive from their master the following commendation: The new constitution marked the most important step forward of South Viet Nam on its path to a representative government. Only three days later, did the Chairman of the Constituent Assembly Phan Khac Suu bring the final "Chief of State" Nguyen Van Thieu for consideration by the Great Military Council, which took another 6 days. That bit of chronology spells out the Saigon regime's pseudo-independence from Washington.

As it is written down, the 1967 Saigon Constitution makes a show of its democratic character with a legislative consisting of two chambers who cannot be dissolved by the chief of the executive whereas they are entitled to recommend the dismissal of a minister or of the whole government.

But a light scrape on the varnish will reveal the real thing. The so-called democratic constitution of 1967 is just like the "presidential" constitution of 1956 one of the feudal, medieval type since it is opposed to "Communism under all its forms" and bans "all acts aimed at propaganda for, or achievement of, that doctrine." Neutrality and all opposition to the Thieu regime is naturally regarded as "forms of Communism."

The claimed separation of power and Saigon parliamentary system are but frauds, for the omnipotent president has the initiative of legislation like the representatives and senators and the right of veto while the latter can only propose the dismissal of a minister or of the whole government appointed and dischargeable by the president by a 2/3 majority. In case of the latter's objection, Parliament can have the last word by imparting to the recommendation an imperative character only by a 3/4 majority of the total of the legislators of both bodies. So to govern at discretion the president needs only secure the backing of, say, a third of these plus one in each house, or 1/4 plus one of the total of representatives and senators. Moreover, Saigon bi-cameralism is purely a "divide and rule" trick since qualifications for both houses are identical with the exception of the age condition which is 30 for the Senate and 25 for the House of Representatives.

So the new Saigon regime is a camouflaged presidential regime in which the president returned for 4 years and eligible for re-election wields more powers than the US president. In point of fact, Article 62 of its Constitution underlines that "the President decides and plans the policy of the state and presides over the Council of Ministers."

The regime turns fascistic

But the Yankees and Thieu were not satisfied. They disliked the Saigon Parliament whose whimperings drew public attention to the dirty linen of the family of puppets and dreaded a presidential change as a result of the working of the eligibitity for the highest office for every citizen over 35 years of age. Thus a bill was introduced in 1968, under the pretext of the prevailing state of war, to vest the executive with the right to make night and day searches of any private house, place under surveillance persons regarded as dangerous to public security, ban all strikes, market close-downs, demonstrations or meetings harmful to law and order, prohibit possession and dissemination of printed matters, documents or leaflets, etc. The executive has also the right to proclaim the state of emergency wherever it thinks fit. The October 1968 law which is reminiscent of the Diem October 1959 fascist law equally provides for the cognizance of the Court Martial at the front (all South Viet Nam is divided into strategic areas and fronts) and recourse to the emergency, i.e. summary procedure against any breach of national order and security.

From 1969 onwards, "Vietnamization" has further consolidated the position of Thieu, from now on immune to any US-inspired coup d'état or military putsch, as every blow at the dictator is bound to jeopardize the Nixon doctrine and Yankee neo-colonialism. As cunning as his boss, Thieu took advantage of it to get rid of representative Tran Ngoc Chau, a dangerous rival, pro-American but anti-Thieu, by having him arrested in the very building of the Lower House, in disregard of the constitutional provisions on parliamentary immunity. Daniel Elsberg, a specialist of the Rand Corporation, testified before the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee on May 13, 1970 that from November 1969 to March 1970, the fact that Thieu had been able to take into custody Tran Ngoc Chau in defiance of the 1967 Constitution was a clear indication that he was reverting to a regime of a familiar pattern, dubbed by the Vietnamese "Ngo Dinh Diem regime." Thieu's is actually that, a Diem regime without Diem.

In 1971, to prepare for a general election and his victory, he rammed through parliament 2 unusual bills: the July 1971 law which arbitrarily distributed the legislators' seats and chiefly the September 1971 which required of each ticket for president and vice president the backing of 40 M.P.s or of 100 city or provincial councillors As the total of Saigon representatives, senators and councillors was respectively 137, 60 and 544, the regulation theoretically limited the number of lists to 9. As a matter of fact, the Thieu-Huong ticket alone secured the endorsement of 104 out of 107 members of both houses, and of 452 out of 544 councillors or 6 times as many as the quota required by the law. As the Duong Van Minh ticket got the support of 44 representatives and senators, there was no one left to sponsor a candidate. Nguyen Cao Ky's ticket received in all 101 signatures of councillors but 39 of them were declared "illegal" for having already pronounced for Thieu. Only when Duong Van Minh had withdrawn, did the Saigon Supreme Court validate Ky's candidacy. But the latter also walked out, leaving Thieu to win a run away one-man race, to the booings of Saigon, US and world public. The impressive returns announced by Thieu — a 87.9% turn-out for a total of 7.1 million voters and a 94.3% poll for him — impressed no one, everybody being disgusted with US-Saigon manipulations.

Another attempt at escalation in power

Nixon's fresh escalation in the aggression has been accompanied by a Saigon attempt at escalation in power. US-Thieu hirelings tabled before the Lower House a draft bill vesting Thieu with full powers for six months. The time-limit was significant, since, in his May 8, 1972, the US President has promised to pull out all US troops within 4 month after a cease-fire agreement and release of captured US military and in any case American elections would take place in less than 6 months' time.

Mr Nixon's intention is transparent: phasing out US soldiers because he cannot do otherwise, but continuation of Thieu in power and strengthening him into another Pak Chung Hee to serve US neo-colonialist purposes in South Viet Nam. The bill passed by the Lower House was rejected by the Senate and sent back to the former where Thieu's supporters were unable to muster the required 2/3 majority to get it through. His zealous satraps have put forward a new law giving Thieu "limited" full powers. Thieu's faltering fortunes and the aggravating dissensions among the various Saigon factions and their US backers will probably prevent the approval of any new act but the trend of the Saigon regime is all the clearer. Its fascization and disregard for its own constitution will grow in proportion to its weakening as a result of the patriots' offensives and the population's uprisings. The fig leaf of Saigon democracy is torn to such an extent that not a shred will remain of it.

THE anti-democratic nature and fascization of the Saigon regime pressingly calls for the realization of the aspirations of the fighting South Vietnamese, as formulated in the PRG February 2nd, 1972 clarification of Mme Nguyen Thi Binh 7 points:

1. The US Government must set a precise time-limit for the total withdrawal from South Viet Nam of all US troops and those of foreign countries belonging to the US camp without laying down any condition.

2. Nguyen Van Thieu must resign at once and the Saigon Administration must end its warlike policy, dismantle its apparatus of repression, cancel its pacification program, disperse its concentration camps, free political detainees and guarantee the exercise of democratic rights and freedoms of the people.

XUAN KHANH

US-Saigon "pacification" programme nearer to total collapse

LIKE a hurricane, the offensives and uprisings started by the South Viet Nam people and armed forces at the beginning of the rainy season have been sweeping away big chunks of US-Saigon "pacification" system and coercive apparatus. In Binh Long and Tay Ninh provinces, north of Saigon, in the course of the first week alone, the Eastern Nam Bo people rose up and wrested back control in an area 190 miles long and 30 miles wide. South of the 17th parallel, a whole province fell into the people's hands. Nearly all the province of Kontum, three districts north of Binh Dinh and important areas in Southern Trung Bo provinces with more than 600,000 inhabitants were entirely liberated. One million people in the Mekong Delta stood up and shattered the enemy oppressive machinery with, as a result, the liberation of a whole territory of nearly 1,000 sq. miles. The quisling administrative apparatus was done away with in whole districts and areas of Nam Bo, from the Delta to the Eastern sector. The British *Daily News* gave an estimate – rather conservative – of 40-50 percent of South Viet Nam's territory slipping out of the Saigon administration's control. The new gains of the South Viet Nam people and armed forces have resulted in the dashing of all US-Saigon hopes of controlling the people and territory, and holding the South Vietnamese under their sway and stamping out the revolution. The Western press had this to say: the adversary's offensive in the northernmost provinces of South Viet Nam means that the shaky "pacification" programme of the Saigon government on this bloody battlefield has suffered a heavy setback; the seizure of so much land in less than a month by the liberation armed forces has exerted a serious impact on the "pacification" programme; the Communist offensive has been efficient because it has neutralized the major part of the "pacification" efforts by the US and South Viet Nam armies since 1969 up to now (*USIS*, *AFP*, *Echo*, April 3, 7 and 24, 1972).

In the last three years, as soon as he stepped into the White House, Nixon has concentrated his efforts on pushing ahead the "pacification" programme, regarding it as the main method to "Vietnamize" the war. Many "pacification" plans under different names have been put into effect in succession: "express pacification" plan, "special pacification" plan, "collective defense and regional development" plan, etc. A big strength of US, Saigon and satellite troops has been fielded, hundreds of millions of dollars spent yearly, a huge tonnage of bombs and shells and chemical products used and untold crimes committed to bring to fruition those plans at all costs.

However, the South Vietnamese have held firm in the teeth of repression with military means and deceit with political manoeuvres and economic bribes. The tenacious fight of the South Vietnamese people and armed forces, now latent, now explosive, has been at the bottom of the failure of all US-Saigon plans. And now after only a short period of action, they have shaken the enemy oppressive set-up to its foundation and drive his criminal "pacification" programme on the verge of ruin. The rosy picture which the Washington war lords have been trying to paint is now being darkened with every passing day.

The Nixon clique's ambitions dreamed of controlling the quasi-totality of South Viet Nam's population and territory, but after two months only, another two million people have recovered control over a whole province, many provincial and district capitals, urban centres, hundreds of villages and thousands of hamlets. With the fraternal help by the people in old liberated areas and under the guidance of revolutionary power at various levels, the people in newly-liberated territories have been enthusiastically taking part in the re-building and defence of their lands, and consolidating their control. The US-Saigon rule wanted to destroy the infrastructure of the resistance in South Viet Nam but the latter has not only been preserved but further strengthened and developed. It is now commanding more manpower and wealth as a result of the expansion of the liberated areas. Its political and military potential has increased, thus contributing to the development of the people's war and to the failure of all enslaving designs of the US imperialists and their valets. Wrote *AFP* on April 19, 1972 in this connection, "The Communists are stepping up their activities in South Viet Nam. This is a new height not attained before, even at the 1968 Tet."

To carry out "pacification" and, on the strength of "pacification," to consolidate the quisling regime, the US aggressors and their flunkeys had been bending their energies on building an efficient administrative machinery, and setting up so-called territorial forces which were to control the land and population in the inner sector while the regular army was to be dispatched to peripheral areas to cope with the PLAF and engage in military adventures. A compact system of posts and fortifications had been erected and a comprehensive net of military "sectors" formed with a view to encircling villages and hamlets while serving as sanctuaries for the quisling authorities. Paramilitary forces of "civil guard" and "militia" had been formed – sometimes reaching the record figure of 25 companies per district – to exert a tight control over the population. The ratio was overwhelmingly in favour of the traitors: 15 against 1 guerilla or revolutionary activist, 1 armed thug watching 7 civilians including oldagers and even newborn babies.

However with the outbreak of the people's offensives and uprisings, within one month the administration in many areas, including one at provincial level, was toppled. 19 military "sectors" and "subsectors" and district capitals were wiped out, thousands of posts and bases, refuges of village thugs and spies were levelled off or forced to evacuate. Even in Hue city where full divisions of the Saigon regular army were still garrisoned, this administration was disintegrating. Western agencies like *Reuter* and *AFP* on May 4 and 5 reported that law and order had crumbled in the former imperial city and that one-fourth of the civil servants had deserted out of panic; they were threatened by the Thieu clique with harsh punishment should they refuse to return to their posts. As regards the "civil guard" and "militia" para-military forces, in many places they simply melted away in no time, especially in embattled areas. Saigon soldiers in many posts suddenly "disappeared" and this had not been foreseen in Saigon and Washington. An American report said that in a district of Binh Dinh province, 57 platoons of "civil guard" and "militia," each platoon comprising from 15 to 20 men, had vanished without firing a shot. American reporters also acknowledged that both regular troops and "civil guards" and "militiamen" of the Central coastal areas could be said to have lost all heart, and to be facing only two alternatives: "either to throw away their guns or to bring them to the Viet Cong side" (*AP*, *UPI*, May 2, 1972). An American adviser complained that the "civil guard" forces in charge of Hoai An district capital refused combat with Communist troops. They threw away their guns, put on civilian clothes and mingled with the local people. (*UPI*, April 20, 1972). The *Baltimore Sun* also wrote on April 16 that a credibility gap occurred two weeks after the Communist offensive: members of militia units in 45 posts of the Mekong Delta had disappeared.

The rapid disintegration of the Saigon administrative machinery and "pacification" forces has upset the US-Saigon plan to concentrate mobile regular units and strengthen regional armed forces. Their forcible drafting and troop "upgrading" programmes, aimed at filling the gaps caused by reverses on various battlefields, also met with tremendous difficulties. The US-Saigon command even had to withdraw regular troops to do the job of "civil guards" and "militiamen" and deal with the mounting wave of uprisings by the population in the inner sector.

Progressing at the same tempo as the powerful onsets of the Liberation main forces, the movement against "pacification" is being carried out by South Viet Nam patriotic forces with increasing might on all battlefields, now with the violence of an avalanche, now with the continued steadiness of the monsoon rain that was covering the delta. "The only thing we can say about pacification at this moment is that it has perhaps failed," admitted many US officials in Saigon, quoted by *AP*.

The "pacification" programme, a dream that Nixon and Co had been endeavouring to translate into reality, is now nearer to total collapse.

Guerillas in Cam Lo (Quang Tri) patrolling in the Cua Viet mouth river

Eastern Nam Bo

20,000 enemy put out of action

THE Command of the People's Liberation Armed Forces in Eastern Nam Bo issued recently a communiqué on the big victories recorded in April and May this year.

The communiqué said : In April and May 1972, the people and armed forces in Eastern Nam Bo put out of action over 20,000 enemy including 5,000 taken prisoner among them hundreds of puppet officers, crippled the 5th Infantry Division, wiped out 6 multi-battalion units and regiments, 12 battalions and squadrons, 40 companies, 60 infantry, armour and artillery platoons, heavily decimated the 25th, 18th and 21st Divisions, the 15th Regiment of the 9th Division, one paratroop brigade and over 20 battalions.

They seized and destroyed nearly 700 military vehicles including 250 tanks and armoured cars, brought down and damaged nearly 200 aircraft of all kinds, 95 war vessels and combat launches including a 15,000-ton warship, seized 300 radios, captured or wrecked 105 cannon and heavy mortars and thousands of tons of ammunition of various calibers.

They razed or forced the enemy to evacuate 4 military subsectors and "strategic sectors" and 180 outposts, liberated vast areas inhabited by hundreds of thousands of people, comprising most part of Binh Long province, two districts of Phuoc Long province, part of Tay Ninh province and many other areas encompassing many villages in Northern Gia Dinh, Ba Ria and Thu Dau Mot provinces.

Going into details, the communiqué said : On the Highway 13 front (Binh Long province), after three days of fighting from April 5 to 7, the liberation fighters put out of action the 9th and 52nd infantry mult battalion units, and the 1st Armour Regiment. After that, they assaulted unremittingly the enemy in An Loc town, inflicting heavy losses on 3 enemy divisions. On Highway 22 and Highway One front, the liberation forces wiped out the 49th multi-battalion unit of the 25th Infantry Division and the 10th Armour Regiment, demolished the Ben Cau strategic military sector and many posts around it, and enlarged the liberation area northwest of Saigon.

Northwest of Gia Dinh, the liberation forces destroyed a big chunk of the enemy defence system over 20 km on the provincial road 14, seized control of the Saigon river and liberated an area comprising 10 villages on both sides of the river.

Northeast of Saigon, the liberation fighters encircled and attacked 3 military subsectors, broke the enemy's grip in many villages, controlled Highway 23, at the same time shelled many storages and airfields, inflicting heavy losses, sank many ships right at the naval bases Rach Dua and Nha Be.

The communiqué noted :

In the past two months, the liberation fighters dealt a heavy blow at the main-force units of the 3rd Corps; 4 enemy divisions deployed on the Eastern Nam Bo front were crippled or heavily trounced. 11 of the 14 multi-battalion units and brigades of the mobile force of the 3rd Army Corps were put out of combat or badly mauled. More than half of the armoured units, the main shock forces of the Saigon army were battered.

The people and armed forces in Eastern Nam Bo dealt hammer blows at or swept the enemy away from Tay Ninh province to Phuoc Long province, breached the defence line lying in the north and northwest of Saigon – the primary important areas where the enemy had deployed their crack forces and built heavy defences.

On Highway 13 : Saigon soldiers carrying the bodies of their mates

A night uprising

AT nightfall, after a heavy pounding of our artillery based on the edge of the strategic hamlets, two "security" companies, who had sallied out in the afternoon ran for dear life back to their post. The regular troops of the Saigon army stationed at the rural administrative offices, also took to flight. Our guns also silenced the military post.

Suddenly, all the inmates in the four strategic hamlets at Trung Hoa rose up. Lamps were lit up in all houses, and the lanes crisscrossing the hamlets were thronged with people.

All kinds of noise were heard : salutations, laughter, children's callings, and tramplings of young men running to help the armymen dig trenches. Old women and young girls were busily making balls of cooked rice for the soldiers who were helping the inhabitants load their things on ox-carts. That animation lasted far into the night.

The plight of US advisers in Loc Ninh

The hour so much sought for struck now. Mother X, using her hands as loudspeaker, shouted : "Prepare yourselves to leave this place, countrymen !"

After two hours, everything was neatly put in carts or in two baskets to be carried on shoulder poles.

All the "security" troops, civil guards and rural puppet authorities had vanished and the inhabitants concentrated at Trung Hoa were rising up.

Trung Hoa was a military base built by the enemy at a crossroads on the defence belt northwest of Saigon. Formerly it was a rangers' training camp lying near a small hamlet of 500 souls. In 1965, when Cu Chi was swarming with GIs sporting the "Tropic Lightning" badges, it became an important post.

For the building of that post, the American aggressors cleared the surroundings with bombs, shells and toxic chemicals and coerced 25,000 people to leave their ricefields and rubber plantations and settle all around as a protection belt.

However, this enterprise, completed in four years, cost a heavy toll of American lives and thousands of tanks and armoured vehicles, yet only 7,000 inhabitants were penned up around the base and 3,000 others along Road No 7.

Life in these strategic hamlets was an ordeal for their inmates. Two or three families (about 20 people) were huddled up in a ramshackle hut occupied in the middle by a large trench which could hardly protect the inmates from enemy's shellings.

Incarceration, torture, bribery, rape, caused by the cruel hamlet chief and his understrappers were of daily occurrence.

Indignation ran high among the inhabitants who were bled white, lived in want, were riddled with diseases and threatened by death. From the onset, our people had waged a stubborn struggle against the wicked thugs. By arguments carried out by a few men and women and then by protest actions taken by hundreds of people, the bullies were more unmasked and isolated and "Phoenix" agents, spies, security men were summoned before the people's tribunal.

As people began to go back to their fertile fields, the enemy, frightened, sought every means and worked out hard regulations to prevent the exodus. Stronger actions were taken. New huts were built and the golden ricefields spread from the concentration camp to the white zone. This relentless tug-of-war ended in the success of the inhabitants who, since early this year, have been able to get rid of the enemy's grips.

The stamping of people bent under the heavily baskets hanging at their carrying poles and the creaking of carts trekking out of the strategic hamlets had the merriment of a festive day.

Early the next morning, the convoy of carts left again for the demolished strategic hamlets to help the inmates load their belongings and quit the barbed wire fences.

For our beloved fatherland

— On the night of June 3, 1972, in Paris, at a rally commemorating the 3rd founding anniversary of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government, Huynh Trung Dong, President of the Association of Vietnamese Nationals in France, reviewed the multifarous activities of Vietnamese nationals of all walks of life to help the anti-US patriotic resistance.

A rash of activity for Spring-Summer 1972 drew the enthusiastic participation of Vietnamese nationals. Members of the "Union of Elderly Vietnamese Nationals in France" have opened a restaurant to provide a meeting place to Vietnamese, and it functions even on Sundays to feed the Resistance fund.

At a meeting of some 30 elderly Vietnamese nationals, 10,000 NF were collected for the same fund. Old T., an 80-odd-year-old retired worker, with a quarterly pension of 460 NF subscribed 500 NF. H., another old man, gave 1,000 NF from his savings.

The fund received whole month salary contributions from some workers and a whole week pay contribution from some others. The total given by workers surpassed the target by 30 percent. A number of Vietnamese nationals worked extra hours in the evening and on holidays, and money earned also went to the fund.

In the Spring-Summer 1972 drive, Vietnamese women living in France founded their own Association. French wives of Vietnamese sent a delegation to the US Paris Embassy to protest against US air raids in North Viet Nam and wrote letters to Vietnamese women voicing their admiration and promise to make a due contribution to the anti-US national resistance.

Vietnamese students in France, although busy preparing or taking their examinations, stepped up their activities on the occasion of the 3rd founding anniversary of the RSVN PRG: 1,520 "support" tickets or 200 percent above target, were sold by them.

Vietnamese intellectuals responded to the call for "Spring-Summer 1972 Activity" by carrying out a round of talks with all those sympathetic to the cause of Viet Nam, including Vietnamese nationals with whom they had not had any opportunity of exchanging views. A lady physician deposited 10,000 NF for the Resistance fund. A painter offered a number of painted silk post-cards to be sold for the same purpose. Medicines were also collected for home.

Vietnamese industrialists and businessmen living in France organized a week of activity at a restaurant and collected 10,000 NF for the Resistance. The membership of their Association rose by 20 percent in less than a month.

— Western reports say that the Thailand authorities once more heaped slanders on Vietnamese nationals as a pretext for increased control over them. Many Vietnamese were arrested in the north-eastern area of Thailand. It was a vile and brazen smearing and repressive campaign to divert public attention from the authorities' collusion with the US imperialists in the sending of more B-52s and US military personnel into Thailand to serve the US air war against Viet Nam (both North and South), Laos and Cambodia.

We strongly protest and denounce such infamous moves of the Thailand authorities. We once again warn that they should bear full responsibility for all consequences arising out of their acts.

The DRVN in brief

o President Ton Duc Thang of the DRVN has signed a citation order conferring the title of "Labour Hero" on 9 units and 7 individuals in the Transport and Communications Service for their outstanding achievements in production and combat support jobs.

o Premier Pham Van Dong has visited the summing up conference of the 10-year work on technical standardization.

"Work on technical standardization must provide good and effective service for the anti-US struggle for national salvation and the building of socialism," he told the participants.

o Recently the Viet Nam People's Army High Command has sent a message to the armed forces and people of Nam Ha to commend their good combat performance, shooting down of a US war plane and capture of its pilot, which brought the total of US aircraft downed over the province to 100.

Vo Xuan Khue, a Labour Hero of the DRVN Transport and Communications

The vietnamese people ...

(Continued from page 1)

For our independence and freedom, for our fundamental national rights and our right to self-determination, we have undergone numbers of trials, fought unflinchingly and perseveringly, disposed of the dictator Ngo Dinh Diem, put to a check the US "special war" then "localized war" that fielded 1,200,000 GIs, satellite and Saigon troops and sent "Vietnamization" to complete doom.

Nixon has invaded Cambodia, conducted a big operation on Highway 9 — Southern Laos tentatively to limit the combat-coordination efficiency of the three Indochinese peoples and alienate the Vietnamese revolution. But his unfortunate attempt has boomeranged upon him. The revolution gains in scope in the three Indochinese countries whose position and strength has been consolidated. Ever bigger gains have crowned their efforts. Maximum training and equipment has been granted to the Saigon army, the backbone of "Vietnamization" and the shock forces of the Nixon "doctrine" in Indochina. With his "pacification" plan as main strategic means, Nixon has been trying hard to pen up the population, "relocate" the farmers, impress the youth to fill up the gap of the Saigon army, scrape resources and manpower for the war and implement the dismal scheme of playing off the Vietnamese against the Vietnamese. A network of fortifications has been set up for the protection "from afar" of cities and towns, the last dens of the Yankees and their flunkeys. But that line and defence system has been broken through by the PLAF which operate close to urban centres, spread thin the enemy in the three strategic zones, mount attacks and scatter a sizeable part of adverse main forces, flatten numerous military sectors and shatter thousands of ports. Seven out of thirteen regular divisions, general reserve forces have been written off or heavily trounced. The PLAF two-month offensives "have caused the loss of 70,000 men," the Time of June 5, 1972 reckoned. For its part, the Baltimore Sun of May 31 noted that the 2-month offensives have pinned down 40 per cent of Saigon regulars and resulted in the latter's 27-km retreat southward. Many coastal areas of the Trung Bo, Central Highlands have fallen into the hands of the communists, the paper said, adding that a front line has been set up south of Saigon in the densely populated Mekong Delta. Though below actual data, these figures are sufficient proof of the lamentable breakdown of the Vietnamization's "backbone."

We keep fighting and winning

By sustained and vigorous uprisings, the population in enemy-held areas have foiled all coercive and repressive forces, seized control and liberated vast populous zones, including the whole of Quang Tri province, many district capitals and townships, hundreds of villages and thousands of hamlets. The "pacification" plan — the major strategic measure for "Vietnamization" — has crumbled by entire chunks.

The success of strategic significance of these 2-month offensives and uprisings has quickly changed the balance of the contending forces, shaken the enemy defence system to its base, and a new situation has emerged. The initiative is in our hands, the position of strength and victory is ours. The Indochinese front is the theatre of a combined fight in which, through a close co-operation, the resistance forces score resounding successes. No tricks, no brutalities, no devilish moves from Nixon can save him from unavoidable failure. Said Le Monde *in its June 3 issue: "Each US air-raid strengthens the solidarity and determination of a nation firmly confident in its coming victory." "In the second half of 1971 and in early 1972," the French paper went on, "a lot of statements confirmed the success of "Vietnamization" and the downfall of the NFL! Actually, the NFL remains unscathed."*

With our customary practice of relying upon our own forces, and with the valuable support and assistance from our friends all over the world, we have got every condition and necessary determination to forge ahead spiritedly and win yet bigger gains and ultimate total victory, liberate the South, defend the North in view of this noble objective: "building an independent, democratic, peaceful and neutral South Viet Nam, proceeding toward the eventual peaceful re-unification of the country."

"The Americans have no other choice than to go away. The quicker their retreat, the less their losses. So said General De Castries, the former French commander of Dien Bien Phu. His words are a wise recommendation to Nixon. The latter's obdurate continuation of the war, vain pursuance of "Vietnamization" and obstinate implementation of the out-dated Nixon "doctrine" will drown his political career into the mire of defeat.

(From GPA)

LAOS:

Si Thon, the Lao combatant known for his outstanding feats of arms in the Phu-Theng-Neng battle

Dry season gains of strategic significance

ACCORDING to a communiqué of the Supreme Command of the Lao People's Liberation Army, from November 1971 to May 19, 1972, the Lao patriotic forces put out of combat more than 15,000 enemy, wiped out or trounced 43 battalions (including 19 battalions of Thai mercenaries), shot down or destroyed on the ground 117 planes, captured or destroyed 4,200 guns of various calibers together with large quantities of war equipment, completely recovered the Plain of Jars and Bolovens Plateau and the townships of Dong Hen, Khong Sedon and Phia Phay, liberating 29,000 people from the enemy grip.

It was a dry season marked by tremendous gains of the heroic Lao liberation armed forces and people, a heavy setback for the Nixon doctrine in Laos, a serious failure of the formula of the US "special war" in Laos which consists in using Thai mercenaries as the shock force for the Vang Pao "special force" and the Vientiane troops with intensive US air support.

In the period under review, the liberation forces and people of Laos destroyed a very important part of the enemy manpower. In particular, they wrote off or badly mauled many main-force units and strategic shock units of the US in Laos. The Thai mercenaries took very stinging blows resulting in the loss of 5,000 men. The whole of the Thai force stationed in the Plain of Jars was knocked out. The Vang Pao "special force" also was battered and disbanded by big chunks in Long Cheng. "The Meo tribesmen, regarded as the best outfit in Laos, have run out of steam and their morale is fast sinking," *UPI* reported. The rightist army of Vientiane which had been bloodied in the earlier period suffered serious casualties in the Bolovens Plateau. Many bandit and commando nests were swept away in Southern and Northern Laos.

After the furious battles of the dry season, all units of the mercenary armies were demoralized. Many battalions and even regiment-sized units of the Vientiane army refused rescue operations or raids. Many units of the Vang Pao "special force" and Thai mercenaries staged disobedience when ordered to carry out inroads into the liberated areas.

Due to the very heavy toll which could not be made up by forcible conscription, the henchmen of the US in Laos have had to impress even children under fifteen and twelve years of age (*Nouvel Observateur*, January 16, 1972). It has become evident that the client army of the US in Laos has taken so severe punishment that it can hardly recover its combat strength in the foreseeable future. As remarked by the *New York Times* in January this year, no amount of American aid can possibly fill the gaps in Laos.

Meanwhile the developments showed an all-round growth of the strength and position of the Lao revolution.

In the rainy season of 1971 the US imperialists had stepped up their aggressive war in Laos to an unheard-of degree of atrocity. They fielded more than 40 battalions of the Vang Pao "special force" and 16 battalions of Thai mercenaries with American air support in a large-scale incursion into the Plain of Jars-Muong Sui area. In Southern Laos, they deployed 30 battalions of the Vientiane army together with five Thai battalions into the Bolovens Plateau. US aircraft, including B-52 strategic bombers, were used to the highest level, in more than 1,000 sorties on certain days in all parts of Laos.

By so doing, Washington and the Lao reactionaries hoped to alter their defensive position and check the offensive of the Vietnamese and Cambodian people. But they utterly failed. All their attacks were foiled. The Lao liberation forces shattered the enemy defence complex in the Plain of Jars-Muong Sui region within only four days (December 18-22, 1972), and followed up by capturing the headquarters of Vang Pao "special force" in Sam Thong-Long Cheng, then completely frustrated the major counter-attack of the enemy and retook the Bolovens Plateau, thus maintaining and consolidating their vast strategic base while intensifying their offensives on all battlefields.

On the Highway 13 front, the Lao Liberation Army erased, or forced the evacuation of, a series of posts and positions, seized control of a more than 60-mile stretch on this strategic road and putting heavy pressure on the enemy defence line north of Vientiane. On Highway 23, the patriotic forces captured many adverse posts and base camps, seriously threatening the enemy defence in Pakse town.

Judging from the recent successes, all the three kinds of the Lao armed forces have made important strides forward. Guerilla warfare has vigorously developed in the plains of Nam U and Mekong rivers and right in the major towns and cities like Vientiane, Luang Prabang and Pakse. The liberated areas of the Lao revolution have been further consolidated and linked up with one another throughout the country as well as with those of the South Viet Nam and Cambodian peoples into steady springboards from which to strike at the enemy in all places.

Their advances bear a strategic significance in that they have created a new situation for the revolution and changed the war picture in Laos. Together with the victories of the people of Viet Nam and Cambodia they help push up the offensives of the Indochinese peoples to complete victory over the war of aggression of the Nixon doctrine. —

in brief

- In recent days, besides sending many letters, telegrams and petitions to the embassy of the RSVN in Berlin in protest against Nixon's new escalation in Viet Nam, and expressing staunch solidarity with the Vietnamese, citizens of the GDR have launched fund-raising drives for Viet Nam's fight against US aggression. In Leipzig alone, 75 schools have subscribed over 10,000 marks and in Dresden, 26,000 marks collected.

- On the evening of June 13, nearly 9,000 Swedes marched through Stockholm's main thoroughfares in protest against Nixon's criminal war in Viet Nam. Many Americans and other foreigners then in Stockholm took part in the demonstration. American Prof. Pfeiffer and journalist Don Luce carried a huge placard reading "US, stop genocidal crimes in Viet Nam!" Some other Americans displayed a charred doll and a poster showing Nixon drinking blood. The action was led by carriers of large flags of the RSVN and placards reading "US, stop the bombing!" and "216 Swedish MPs support the 7 points of the RSVN PRG!"

  The day before, hundreds of Stockholm citizens staged a protest demonstration outside the hotel where representatives of the Saigon regime were staying and pressed for their expulsion from Sweden.

- 5,000 people representing more than 20 mass, student, trade union, Labour Party and Communist Party organizations marched on London where they took part in rallies and demonstrations on June 4. Braving heavy rain, the protesters gave a warm ovation to Nguyen Van Tien, Deputy-head of the RSVN PRG delegation to the Paris Conference who spoke at the rally. They chanted "US quit Viet Nam!" and "Viet Nam will win!"

  The demonstrators went to the US Embassy and handed in a petition urging that the Nixon administration withdraw all US forces, war means and military bases from Viet Nam, end the bombing of North Viet Nam and the blockade of its ports, and return to the Paris Conference f r meaningful talks.

  On June 7, over 100 doctors, students and staff members of various London hospitals demonstrated in front of the US Embassy, and handed in a petition with a similar demand. According to a communiqué issued by the Medical Aid Committee for Viet Nam, 5,000 pounds worth of medicines had been dispatched to Viet Nam.

- The Austrian Young Communist Union and Young Pioneers Brigade have donated 68,000 Austrian shillings to the South Vietnamese people and young pioneers. This sum was handed over to Dinh Ba Thi, visiting deputy-head of the RSVN PRG delegation to the Paris Conference, at a meeting held by 3,000 Austrian youths and other people on the evening of June 3, 1972. At this gathering, Nixon's charge of North Viet Nam's aggression South Viet Nam, and claim that US war moves were to protect the 60,000 US servicemen remaining in South Viet Nam and to defend the 17 million South Vietnamese, etc., were flatly rejected.

- Many demonstrations were held on June 11 in workers' quarters in Rome, Livourne and other Italian cities against the US aggression in Viet Nam and Indochina. The anti-war activities were sponsored by the National Italy - Viet Nam Committee.

  On June 12, some 20,000 people from Tokyo and its vicinities demonstrated near the US Tachikawa military base against increased US bombing of Viet Nam and the reactionary Japanese administration's complicity in the US aggressive war in Viet Nam.

- A large number of Indians demonstrated in front of the US Embassy in New Delhi and handed in a petition urging that the US imperialists end at once the bombing of the DRVN and pull all their troops out of Indochina.

- In a recent statement, progressive Mexican writers and artists have declared, "The US criminal mining and blockade of North Viet Nam ports is designed to isolate the Vietnamese and prevent them from receiving food and medical supplies from outside. This move by the fascistic imperialists is a high in their attempts made thus far by their predecessors, to seize Viet Nam's territory and wealth, serve an extermination end, and experiment the most powerful, most sophisticated and most brutal weapons on men, women, children and old people . . ."

  Mexican writers and artists condemned US President Nixon as an insane fascist and an agent of American trusts, billionaires and dictators, and refuted the "honour" which Nixon has pledged to defend as something quite different from the American people's.

The Nixon's "peace" unmasked

American flag about to burn at the DC demo against the war on May 21

FOR all his efforts to sell his "peace" and cover up his aggressive design, Nixon continues to be under fire everywhere in the world.

The Premier of Cuba, the President of Cameroun, the Premier of Sweden and the Vice-Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka have scored his frantic escalation while expressing vigorous support for the Vietnamese people. Premier Fidel Castro said: "The war adventures and peace tricks of Nixon do not prove the strength of US imperialism. They only show the losing and weak position of Nixon and Co. We will, if necessary, send Cuban volunteers to join the Vietnamese in their fight against the ferocious Yankee aggressors." "The immense destruction brought about," Prime Minister Olof Palme said, "by indiscriminate bombing, large-scale use of bulldozers and herbicides is an outrage, sometimes described as ecocide which requires urgent international attention." He called for an immediate end to the atrocity.

The meeting held in Stockholm to hear reports on US genocide in Indochina, the Conference of the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions in Cairo, the annual conference of the Secretariat of the Women's International Democratic Federation in Bulgaria, and the International Unions of chemical workers, construction workers, tailors, etc. have adopted resolutions or issued statements or appeals calling for the world people's more vigorous protest against US aggression in Viet Nam and the rest of Indochina, and more effective support for the struggle of the peoples of Viet Nam and the other Indochinese countries. Hans Goran Franck, Secretary General of the International Commission for Investigation of US War Crimes in Indochina, has made clear in a recent report that the US war in Indochina is, in itself, illegal and criminal. The basic issue is not what methods of war the US may use to "suit" it; it is what right the US has to conduct this war. The US does not have such a right, and its war of aggression is a crime, the lawyer pointed out. "As long as the US government continues its criminal aggression in Indochina," he added, "there can be no genuine peace, and the world peoples cannot feel safe, and we cannot speak of a world-wide reduction of tension."

IN many countries, strong protest actions have been erupted.

Meetings have been organized again and again in the GDR, in Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and elsewhere. Demonstrations in West Germany, England and Switzerland involved 3 or 4 thousand people each. In the streets of Frankfurt, demonstrators shouted "US get out of Viet Nam!", "Bomb the Pentagon!" In London, protestors handed to the US Embassy letters demanding an end to the US attacks on both parts of Viet Nam, complete US military withdrawal from Indochina, dismantlement of all US military bases in South Viet Nam, and US return to the Paris Conference for a negotiated solution based on the 7-point solution of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government. In Berne, the local branch of the Sperry Rand Corporation was attacked with jellied gasoline.

The movement in support of Viet Nam in the Northern European countries has been gaining momentum. The NFL groups in Sweden, the Norwegian Committee for Solidarity with Viet Nam, the Denmark-Viet Nam Committee, and the NFL group in Finland have held a joint rally in Stockholm to condemn US aggression and to hail the Vietnamese people's dramatic gains. In May, the Swedish NFL groups broke their own record by collecting close to 200,000 knonors. On June 1, John Takman, representative of the Swedish Committee for Support to Viet Nam and the Committee for Medical Aid to Viet Nam gave the DRVN Ambassador and the Director of the RSVN PRG Information Bureau two checks of 50,000 kronors each for the North Vietnamese and the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation. Representatives of 11 Icelandic youth organizations have approved in a meeting a resolution in support of Viet Nam, and the national representative of the Canadian peace movement has declared full backing to the 7-point proposal of the RSVN PRG and demanded an immediate end to US aggression in Viet Nam. Santiago de Chile and many provinces of Chile like Bio-Bio, Nuble and Concepcion have seen daily anti-US actions, meetings, demonstrations, exhibitions, talks, shows, etc. One of the cultural activities was named "Let us sing for Viet Nam." In the Philippines, to protest the intensified US bombing of North Viet Nam, progressives assaulted the Saigon Embassy in Manila with hand-grenades. Meanwhile, a support ship carrying aid for Viet Nam has left Osaka harbour after an enthusiastic send-off by some 2,000 representatives of the Japanese people...

In the United States, the town council of Los Altos Hills, California, has passed a resolution urging the US Government to withdraw without delay all US troops from South Viet Nam, and put an immediate end to all war acts against the DRVN, and to US aggression in the whole of Indochina. At Norfolk harbour, Virginia, a spirited demonstration protested the sending of the US aircraft carrier America to the Gulf of Tonkin for more raids on the Vietnamese.

As for Nixon, cold reception was given him at home after his tour abroad to peddle his "peace," during which he had had a narrow escape in Iran. Despite his inflated rhetoric, he was harshly taken to task by many Congressmen who took his report as an electioneering ploy without any substance at all. Many senators agreed that Nixon, while prattling about peace, is actually prolonging and intensifying the war of aggression in Viet Nam.

Nixon has also been unmasked by the press in many countries. *Akahata* (Japan) commented on May 31 that Nixon's crimes were even more loathsome than Hitler's, that the human race would never forgive him his brutalities. Even so, he has the cheek to act the chief peace champion, the paper exclaimed.

L'Humanité (France) wrote on May 29: "How can he style himself an envoy of peace when he is conducting the most inhuman war in Viet Nam? According to what he says, the main cause of war would be the involvement of great nations by small ones into war without intending it. To understand this strange, vague logic, we must believe that the present situation in Indochina does not originate in the actions of the United States but in the resistance of the Indochinese peoples who are fighting for their freedom." The Egyptian paper *Akhbar* on May 20 wrote: "It's a surprise to everybody to hear the pious words about peace uttered by Nixon, who every day sends swarms of aircraft to drop hundreds of tons of bombs on Viet Nam, on people who have never threatened the United States... All nations must reject the Nixon-style peace, because there can be no peace unless there is genuine independence and freedom. All nations are opposed to any attempt to impose upon them this *Pax Americana*".

PRG Delegation visits Mauritania

AT the invitation of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania a delegation of the Republic of South Viet Nam Provisional Revolutionary Government led by Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh paid an official visit to that country from June 8 to June 14.

During its stay there, the delegation was received by President Moktar Ould Daddah.

It had interviews with the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Secretary of the Organization and Information Committee of the People's Party, the Minister of Justice, the acting Foreign Minister and the Minister of Equipment. It also attended mass meetings and visited production, cultural and social establishments in the capital and other cities of Mauritania. Everywhere, it was given a warm welcome.

At the conclusion of the tour, the delegation of the RSVN PRG and that of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania signed a joint communiqué in which the Mauritanian side warmly acclaimed the electrifying successes of the South Vietnamese on the military, political and diplomatic fronts and reaffirmed the unswerving support of the Mauritanian People's Party and Government for the just struggle of the Vietnamese until final victory.

"The Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania," the statement said, "emphatically reiterates its unreserved support for the 7-point peace offer of the RSVN PRG and the February 2, 1972 2-point clarification as a sound, fair and reasonable basis for the settlement of the South Viet Nam problem. It maintains that the only sensible course is withdrawal of all US and allied troops from South Viet Nam and termination of US backing for the Nguyen Van Thieu administration— an instrument of "Vietnamization"—so that the South Vietnamese may settle their own affairs themselves without foreign interference.

"The Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, while joining its voice to those of the peace- and justice-loving governments in the world, urges that the US put an end to its criminal war activities against the DRVN and cease the blockade and mining of DRVN harbours which constitute a challenge to world public opinion and a serious violation of elementary norms of international law..."

The joint communiqué concluded that both sides were fully convinced that the fraternal friendship and solidarity between the people of Mauritania and South Viet Nam would develop and strengthen with every passing day.

SOUTH VIET NAM CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION